

XXXVI.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of the Philippine Islands.*—*On two Collections of Birds from the vicinity of Manilla.* By R. G. WARDLAW RAMSAY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c.

(Plate IX.)

* IN the course of the last four months I have received through the kindness of my friend Mr. Frederick Maitland-Heriot, of Manilla, two collections of bird-skins which were made in the neighbourhood of that town.

The skins in the first collection were in a very ragged condition, and in many cases barely recognizable; but those in the second collection were prepared by a skilful taxidermist, by name Pio Oliva.

In the first collection five species only require notice:—

1. *HYPOTRIORCHIS SEVERUS* (Horsf.) (13)*.

Hypotriorchis severus (Horsf.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 139 (p. 306); Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 937 (p. 629), Zamboanga. One example in adult plumage.

2. *ACCIPITER MANILLENSIS* (18 partim).

Accipiter stevensoni, Gurney apud Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 938, pl. lvii. (p. 629).

Accipiter manillensis, Meyen, Beitr. p. 69, pl. 9.

Mr. Gurney thus identifies a specimen sent from Manilla by Mr. Maitland-Heriot in his 'List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey in the Norwich Museum.' As Mr. Gurney has (App. O. pp. 173–177) treated of this species at considerable length, I refer the readers of 'The Ibis' to his remarks there given.

3. *CIRCUS MELANOLEUCUS* (27).

Circus melanoleucus (Forst.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 143 (p. 311).

Three specimens, ♂, ♂ juv., ♀.

The occurrence of this Harrier in the Philippine Islands is thus fully established.

* The numbers in brackets following the title are those of my revised list of Philippine Birds, App. Tweedd. Orn. Mem., and those following the references to Lord Tweeddale's writings indicate the page on which they will be found in the Memoirs.

4. PYRRHOCENTOR UNIRUFUS.

Pyrrhocentor unirufus, Cab. Mus. Hein. iv. p. 118.

Pyrrhocentor melanops (Less.), Wald. T. Z. S. viii. p. 56 (p. 158); id. ibid. ix. p. 164 (p. 330).

I am inclined to think that this is a distinct species, and not the young of *P. melanops*, as Lord Walden supposed (*l. c.*).

In measurements it certainly agrees with that species, but the single specimen sent appears to have had an apple-green bill when freshly killed, like a *Rhopodytes*.

5. EXCALFACTORIA CHINENSIS (Linn.).

Excalfactoria chinensis (L.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 224 (p. 387).

The single specimen sent is so badly skinned that it is impossible to be quite sure to what species it belongs; but it appears to agree with specimens from Burmah, Sumatra, Malacca, and Borneo.

The second collection contained 200 specimens referable to 75 species, of which 23 do not appear in the list of Luzon birds collected by Mr. A. H. Everett (P. Z. S. 1877, pp. 686-703).

Three species have to be added to my "Revised List of Philippine Birds," Tweedd. Orn. Mem. App. pp. 655-660, viz. :—

13 a. FALCO MELANOGENYS.

88 a. HIEROCOCCYX FUGAX (?=88. *H. pectoralis*).

212 a. MELANIPARUS SEMILARVATUS.

I may take this opportunity of mentioning that, in the list above referred to, one species was accidentally omitted, viz. *Cinnyris flammans*, Oustalet, from Manilla. Of this species, apparently, only the type specimen (in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris) is known; but, having sent a copy of Capt. Shelley's figure (Mon. Cinn. pl. 47) to Mr. Maitland-Heriot, I hope to obtain additional examples.

According to Mr. J. H. Gurney, No. 18, *Accipiter stewartsoni*, should be expunged, and *Accipiter nisoides*, Blyth, and

A. manillensis (Meyen) entered—there being in the Tweeddale collection a female of the former from Zamboanga and two presumably young birds of this species from the same place, and the specimen of the latter above referred to from Manilla.

The species to be noticed in the second collection are :—

1. *FALCO MELANOGENYS*, Gould.

Mr. Gurney thus identifies a female specimen sent by Mr. Maitland-Heriot, and informs me that the specimen in the Norwich Museum, said to come from the Philippine Islands, which is alluded to by the late Lord Tweeddale, T. Z. S. ix. p. 139 (p. 306), is exactly similar.

The occurrence of this Falcon in the Philippines is thus established.

2. *CEYX MELANURA*.

Alcedo melanura, Kaup, Fam. der Eisv. p. 15.

Ceyx melanura (Kaup), Sharpe, Mon. Alced. pl. 39; Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 153 (p. 320).

One specimen.

3. *CEYX CYANOPECTUS*. (Plate IX.)

Ceyx cyanopectus, La Fresnaye, Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 33 (♀?).

Ceyx philippinensis, Gould, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 404 (♂?).

Alcyone cyanopectus (La Fr.), Sharpe, Mon. Alced. pl. 17.

Ceyx philippinensis, Gld., Sharpe, Mon. Alced. pl. 37; Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 153 (pp. 319–320).

On seeing the four specimens sent, two specimens being in the plumage of *A. cyanopectus* and two in that of *C. philippinensis*, it at once occurred to me that the two plumages were those of the two sexes of the same species. I forwarded them to Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, who replied :—"The Kingfishers are very interesting, and are *Alcyone cyanopectus* and *Ceyx philippinensis* of my monograph. When I wrote I had seen only one specimen of *Ceyx philippinensis*, and was inclined to consider the two species distinct; but I greatly doubt it now, and suspect that the two are sexes of one and the same species."



Now if Mr. Sharpe's figure (*l. c.*) accurately represents the specimen from which it professes to be taken, there is a wide difference in plumage between it and the two specimens which Mr. Sharpe now identifies with *A. cyanopectus*. These specimens are generally similar in plumage to the two examples of *C. philippinensis* sent by Mr. Maitland-Heriot, which in turn agree with Mr. Sharpe's plate, except that that plate appears to have been taken from a much faded specimen. They, however, differ in having the patches of blue meeting across the breast, thus forming a broad pectoral band, within which is a narrower transverse patch, stretching nearly across the breast, of the same deep bright rufous as the rest of the lower surface. The flanks also are deep lazuli blue and not rufous, as in *C. philippinensis*, Gld. The birds in this plumage I take to be females; but as the sexes have not been determined by the collector, I am unable to speak with certainty.

4. *HIEROCOCCYX FUGAX*.

Cuculus fugax, Horsf. T. L. S. xiii. p. 178.

An immature specimen agreeing closely with Malaccan specimens. It may be that it is a young bird of *H. pectoralis*, Cab., which would rather be evidence in favour of the identity of the two species. I have never seen a specimen of true *H. fugax* with the uniform rufous breast of *H. pectoralis*, Cab.

Count Salvadori unites *H. pectoralis* as well as *H. hyperythrus*, Gld., to *H. fugax* (Ucc. Born. p. 63), and Professor Schlegel (Mus. P.-Bas, Cuculi, p. 14) goes further and unites *H. pectoralis* and *H. fugax* to *H. varius* (Vahl). I should have least hesitation in agreeing with the latter author in this instance. It is difficult to imagine how any of the birds known under the various titles mentioned could ever attain to the very marked plumage of the specimen of *H. hyperythrus* in the British Museum.

As I have requested Mr. Maitland-Heriot to send me all the Cuckoos he can obtain, I hope soon to be in a position to settle this question.

5. LALAGE MELANOLEUCA.

Pseudolalage melanoleuca, Bl., Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 178 (p. 343), pl. xxix. f. 2.

The plumage of the female has not yet been described ; it is as follows :—As in the male, but the glossy greenish black of the head, mantle, and scapulars replaced by ashy grey, and the white of the lower surface thickly barred with grey. Dimensions rather less.

Appears to be not uncommon near Manilla.

Two female specimens were collected by Mr. A. H. Everett at Laguna de Bai, near Manilla ; but Lord Tweeddale omitted to mention them in his paper on Luzon birds, P. Z. S. 1877.

6. PERICROCOTUS CINEREUS.

Pericrocotus cinereus, La Fresn., Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 179 (p. 345).

Three specimens.

7. ZEOCEPHUS RUFUS.

Zeocephus rufus, G. R. Gr., Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 183 (p. 348).

Three specimens. A specimen presented to me by Herr Kutter, of Neustadt, which was collected by Herr Koch in S. Mindanao (*vide* J. f. O. 1883, p. 309), agrees with the above specimens.

8. PITTA ERYTHROGASTRA.

Pitta erythrogastra, Temm., Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 187 (p. 352).

One specimen, which agrees with birds collected by Mr. A. H. Everett at Zamboanga in S.W. Mindanao, *vide* P. Z. S. 1878, p. 948 (p. 639).

9. MELANIPARUS SEMILARVATUS.

Melaniparus semilarvatus, Salvad. Atti Soc. Ital. Sc. Nat. viii. p. 375 (1865) ; id. J. f. O. 1868, p. 68 ; id. Ibis, 1879, p. 300, pl. ix.

Parus semilarvatus (Salvad.), Gadow, Cat. B. viii. p. 38.

The rediscovery of this bird, which has been for so long shrouded in mystery, is most interesting. One of the two specimens in the British Museum is labelled Philippine

Islands; but the other is marked N. China, and the two typical specimens at Turin are said to have been received with many other Himalayan birds from Baron Solaroli; but Count Salvadori has stated (Ibis, 1879, p. 300) that he suspects that in reality these birds had been given to the Turin Museum by Baron Rollet along with some Central-African birds. All the other species of *Melaniparus* are African.

Two specimens are sent by Mr. Maitland-Heriot.

10. NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS.

Numenius phæopus (L.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 232 (p. 395).

The Philippine Whimbrel is referred by Salvadori (Orn. Pap. iii. p. 332) to *N. variegatus*, Scop.

One specimen.

11. ARDETTA FLAVICOLLIS.

Ardetta flavicollis (Lath.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 236 (p. 398); Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1877, p. 834 (p. 560).

One specimen.

12. GORSACHIUS MELANOLOPHUS.

Ardea melanolopha, Raffles, T. L. S. xiii. p. 326.

Gorsachius goisagi, Temm. Pl. Col. 582; Faun. Jap. p. 116, pl. 70.

Gorsachius melanolophus (Raffl.), Wald. T. Z. S. ix. p. 238 (p. 401).

Butio kutteri, Cab. J. f. O. 1881, p. 425.

The single specimen sent, which is in immature plumage, agrees in the length and shape of its bill with an adult specimen from Japan, and differs from all my other specimens from Ceylon, the Nicobar Islands, Malacca, and (?) Pegu in this respect. Furthermore it differs from all other immature specimens in having no white subterminal spots to the crest-feathers. This specimen is in the plumage of the figure of the immature bird in the 'Fauna Japonica.' I am disposed to think that the Japanese and Philippine birds must be kept distinct under the title of *G. goisagi*; but see the writings of Mr. Oates (B. Burmah, ii. p. 261) and Mr. A. O. Hume (S. F. ii. p. 312, and viii. p. 114).